



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,272	03/04/2002	Steve N. Galant	35683.0new	4184

7590

10/28/2003

R. Kent Roberts  
Hodgson Russ LLP  
Suite 2000  
One M&T Plaza  
Buffalo, NY 14203-2391

EXAMINER

WALSH, JOHN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3676

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

10/090,272

Applicant(s)

GALANT, STEVE N.

Examin r

John B. Walsh

Art Unit

3676

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on the cover sh et with the correspondenc address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-7,9,12,14-17,19-22 and 24-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7,9,17,19-21 and 27-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6,12,14,16,22,24 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5,15 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) Z.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 17 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 17, line 8 – replace “tip” with “top” before “lap”. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 12, 14, 22, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,927,108 to Pierce.

Pierce ‘108 discloses a first securing member including a first restraining member (21) and an elongate arm (21) extending from the first restraining member; a second securing member including a second restraining member (22) and a releasable locking device (23); each restraining member includes a first pair of spaced apart opposed engagement members (13,30) and a further engagement member (15,14); a joining member (corner member portion joining 13 and 14; figure 1) connecting the further engagement member to at least one of the opposed engagement members.

As concerns claim 2, the locking device is securable to the arm at a plurality of locations (24).

Art Unit: 3676

As further concerns claim 12, restraining means (14) that are opposed, the restraining means having means for engaging (13,30) a cover and base and means for engaging diagonal corners (inner side of 14 with 17).

As concerns claim 14, the locking arm is positioned to extend behind the cover of a laptop (the laptop has not been positively recited only the security device is being claimed, therefore the locking arm is adapted to be positioned behind an open lap top). Further concerning claim 20, it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

As concerns claim 22, the first pair and second pair of engagement members are orthogonal (figure 1; 14 is orthogonal to 13 and 15 is orthogonal to 30).

As concerns claims 24 and 26, the recitations drawn to the laptop computer have not been given patentable weight because the claims have been drawn to the subcombination of a securing device. Pierce discloses all of the claimed structural subject matter and is therefore capable of performing the recited functions. As concerns claim 26, means for engaging (30,13) a cover and base and means for engaging diagonally (14).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

Art Unit: 3676

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,927,108 to Pierce as applied to claim 2 above in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,138,483 to Galant.

Pierce '108 does not explicitly show the internal workings of the locking device having a spring loaded pawl.

Galant '483 teaches a locking device having a spring loaded pawl (figure 9).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the locking device of Pierce '108 with a spring loaded pawl, as taught by Galant '483, to ensure that a biasing force is present to keep the device locked.

6. Claims 6 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,927,108 to Pierce as applied to claims 1, 12 and 17 above in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,467,315 to Edmondson.

Pierce '108 does not disclose a cable for securing the security device to a structure.

Edmondson '315 teaches a cable (14) for securing the security device to a structure.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the locking device of Pierce '108 with a cable, as taught by Edmondson '315, in order to provide additional securing means enhances the security of the device.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

7. Claims 5, 15 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims 7, 9, 17, 19-21, 27, 28 and 29 are allowed.

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record, particularly Pierce '108, does not disclose or teach as claimed in detail the applicant's claimed invention wherein: As concerns claim 7, the first and second restraining members each including spaced apart cover wall and base wall engagement members, and a pair of spaced apart side-wall engagement members for engaging the cover wall, base wall, and a pair of side-walls, respectively, at the first and second corners, respectively, to restrain movement of the component relative to the security device when in the locked position; as concerns claim 17, a rigid base member spaced apart from the U-shaped member for extending under a portion of the lap top base; as concerns claims 27 and 28, a hole is defined through a portion of one of said first and second securing members for receiving a shaft to secure the first or second member to a support surface, the hole being positioned so that it is located between the component and the support surface when the security device is used to secure the component to the support device.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 3676

***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments filed August 15, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Pierce discloses a wheel lock device that cannot function to securely engage an equipment component such as a laptop computer. The applicant's claims are drawn to a security device for securing an equipment component. The examiner has therefore examined the claims as drawn to the subcombination of a security device not the combination of a security device and equipment component such as a laptop computer. Pierce discloses the claimed structural subject matter and is therefore capable of performing the function.

If it is applicant's intent to claim the combination of the security device with the laptop computer, the applicant should indicate the intent in the next correspondence and draft the claims accordingly.

***Conclusion***

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

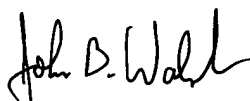
Art Unit: 3676

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 703-305-0444. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-872-9325.



John B. Walsh  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 3670

October 27, 2003